# Message Text

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P R 180955Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 935
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
CINCAPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, ECON, SGEN, ID

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S NATIONAL DAY SPEECH: ECONOMIC ASPECTS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFID. SUMMARY: WHILE PLACING MAJOR EMPHASIS ON MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF INDONEIA'S WEALTH (SEPTEL) PRESIDENT SUHARTO IN HIS INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH RECOGNIZED THAT THE ECONOMY FACES TOUGH SLEDDING AS A RESULT OF STAGNATING OIL REVENUES. ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF REVENUE SUCH AS ENHANCED NON-OIL EXPORTS AND INCREASED DOMESTIC TAX COLLECTION ALONG WITH AN EXPANSIVE BUSINESS CLIMATE WILL BE EMPHASIZED. ELABORATION OF HOW THESE GOALS ARE TO BE MET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS EXPECTED TO BE DEALT WITH IN THIRD FIVE YEAR PLAN NOW IN PREPARATION. END SUMMARY.

2. HIGH GROWTH RATE - WHILE FRANKLY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE INDONESIAN ECONOMY FACES HARDER TIMES, PRESIDENT SUHARTO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE THROUGH OUT THE FIVE YEARS OF REPELITA III WOULD AVERAGE

6.5 PERCENT (COMPARED TO 7 PERCENT OR MORE OVER PAST FIVE YEARS). AT THE SAME TIME PROGRESS TOWARD THE GOAL OF A BETTER BALANCED ECONOMY WILL BE MADE. HIGH GROWTH SECTORS ARE EXPECTED TO BE INDUSTRIAL (11 PERCENT); BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION (9 PERCENT); TRANSPORTATION AND COMMERCE (10 PERCENT); AND OTHER NON-OIL, NON-AGRICULTURE (8 PERCENT). OIL AND AGRICULTURE WILL EXPAND BY 3.5 TO 4 PERCENT A YEAR AND DESPITE THIS RELATIVELY GOOD PERFORMANCE AGRICULURE WILL SLIP FROM 31 PERCENT OF GNP TODAY TO 27 PERCENT IN FY 1983-84. THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WAS SINGLED OUT FOR AN"INCREASINGLY LARGE ROLE", WITH EMPHASIS ON INDUSTRIES WHICH PROCESS RAW MATERIALS.

3. OIL INCOME STAGNATES - THIS PREDICTION OF CONTINUED HEALTHY GROWTH NOTWITHSTANDING, THE PRESIDENT STATED THAT REPELITA III WOULD BE BASED ON THE "REALITIES OF THE PRESENT SITUATION". CHIEF AMONG THESE IS THAT REVENUE FROM OIL EXPORTS WILL NOT EXPAND MUCH IF AT ALL, DUE TO SOFT OIL MARKETS AND THE UNSETTLED CONDITION OF THW ROLD ECONOMY. OIL RECEIPTS WILL NOT CONSTITUTUE 55 PERCENT OF STATE REVENUES DURING REPELITA III AS THEY DID DURING THE CURRENT PLAN. SUHARTO SAID BOTH THE PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF OIL WOULD RISE, THROUGH INCREASED EXPLORATION AND ECONOMIZING ON DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, BUT HE ADMITTED THAT SUCH INCREASES WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. EMPHASIS ON NON-OIL EXPORTS - TO TAKE UP THE SLACK OF RELATIVELY SMALLER REVENUES FROM OIL, PRESIDENT SUHARTO SAID IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HEIGHTEN FURTHER THE COUNTRY'S EXPORTS OF BOTH TRADITIONAL COMMODITIES AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS. INCREASED NON-OIL EXPORTS ARE TO BE ACHIEVED THROUGH "INTEGRATED POLICIES COVERING THE FIELDS OF PRODUCTION, MARKETING AND CREDITS; THE ELIMINATION OF OBSTACLES; AND PROVIDING PHYSICAL INCENTION DOWN, RAISING THE VOLUME AND QUALITY OF EXPORTS AND INCREASING THE COMPETITIVE POWERS OF THESE GOODS ON THE WORLD MARKET."

5. BOLSTER DOMESTIC REVENUE - THE PRESIDENT LOOKED TO EXPANDED LNG REVENUES TO OFFSET TO SOME EXTENT THE DECLINE IN OIL EARNINGS, BUT SAID NON-OIL RECEIPTS WOULD ALSO RISE SIGNIFICANTLY. SPECIFICALLY, INCOME, PROPERTY, COMPANY AND REGIONAL SERVICE TAXES WILL ALL BE INCREASED ON A PROGRESSIVE BASIS "IN CONFORMITY WITH JUSTICE AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTUION OF INCOME

WHICH PROMOTES AA SIMPLE PATTERN OF LIVING" AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN GENERAL. IN PARTICULAR BOTH INCOME AND PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION FROM THE HIGH INCOME GROUP WILL BE BETTTER REGULATED SO THAT THIS GROUP CAN REALLY CONSTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT IN KEEPING WITH ITS CAPACITY. THE PRESIDENT ANTICIPATED THAT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TAX APPARATUS AND INCREASED AMOUNTS OF INCOME SUBJECT TO TAX WOULD LEAD TO A SITUATION IN WHICH REVENUES FROM TAX SOURCES OTHER THAN OIL AND LNG WILL EXCEED OIL AND LNG RECEIPTS DURING REPELITA III.

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P R 180955Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 936
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
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#### CINCPAC FOR POLAD

6. INCREASED DOMESTIC SAVINGS - INDONESIA'S RESPONSIBILITY AS A SOVEREIGN NATION REQUIRES THAT THE GREATER PART OF ITS DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT BE MOBILIZED FROM WITHIN THE COUNTR. TO THIS END THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT DOMESTIC SAVINGS WOULD FINANCE 81 PERCENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT BURDEN. BECAUSE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENTS WILL BE SMALLER IN THE THIRD PLAN THAN IN THE SECOND, DUE TO RELATIVELY LOWER OIL INCOME, HE CALLED

FOR ECNOMIES IN THE FUNCTIONING OF GOVERNMENT AND INCREASED PUBLIC SAVINGS. THE LATTER CAN BE ACHIEVD THROUGH THE PROVISION OF "REALISTIC AND ATTRACTIVE" INTEREST RATES. THE CAPITAL MARKET WILL BE MADE MORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTIVE BY "STIMULATING" ENTERPRISES TO SELL SHARES. IN THE CONTEXT OF EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF OWNERSHIP AND THROUGH THE MOBILIZATION OF DEVELOPMENT FUNDS. CREDIT POLICIES WILL BE INCREASINGLY DIRECTED TOWARD DEVELOPMENT NEEDS. IN PARTICULAR THOSE OF THE BUSINESS WORLD. GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO CREATE A FAVORABLE CLIMATE AND TO PROMPT PRIVATE, STATE AND REGIONAL ENTER-PRISE TO INCREASE THE MOBILIZATION OF THEIR FUNDS SO AS TO BE ABLE TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE PART IN THE IMPLEMENTA-TION OF REPELITA III. THE POLICY OF SPECIAL CREDITS TO THE ECONOMICALLY WEAK GROUP IS TO BE CONTINUED AND IN-TNESIFIED. AND THE OFFERING OF OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE ECONOMICALLY WEAK WILL BE STEPPED UP. FINALLY INASMUCH AS AVAILABILITY OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR IMPORTS WILL NOT INCREASE MUCH, NEEDS WILL HAVE TO BE MET FROM DOMESTIC PRODUCTION SO THAT IMPORTS CAN BE CONCENTRATED ON CAPITAL GOODS.

7. INVESTMENT PATTERN - THE PATTERN OF FUTURE INVEST-MENT WILL STRESS THAT WHICH OFFERS SCOPE FOR ADVANCEMENT BUT DOES NOT OUTSTRIP AVAILABLE FUNDS. CITING THE IN-CREASED INVESTMENT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH INVESTMENTS WHICH HAVE ONLY AN INDIRECT INFLUENCE ON PRODUCTION OR A LONG LEAD TIME BEFORE GOING INTO PRODUCTION THE PRESI-DENT SAID THE GOI WILL OPT FOR EFFICIENT INVESTMENTS WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE LARGE SUMS, AND WHICH ELIMINATE WASTE AND FACILITIATE IMPLEMENTATION. DURING REPELITA III CAREFUL STUDY WILL BE MADE OF BOTH INVESTMENTS AND TECHNOLOGY SO THAT THE NATIONAL PRODUCT CAN INCREASE WITH THE SMALLEST POSSIBLE INVESTMENT COSTS. GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES WILL BE DIRECTED TO HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS, "ESPECIALLY THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE DEVELOPMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS OF THE ECONOMICALLY WEAK". IN THE CONTEXT OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT, PRESIDENT SUHARTO PLEDGED MEASURES TO ENSURE GREATER OPPORTUNITIE ES FOR INDONESIA'S OWN NATIONALS TO DEVELOP THEIR ACTIVITES. FOREIGN CAPITAL WILL "CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTU-

NITY TO EXPLOIT FIELDS THAT CANNOT YET BE EXPLOITED BY INDONESIANS". THE NATIONAL INTEREST DEMANDS THAT THESE ENDEAVORS BE JOINT UNDERTAKINGS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSMEN.

8. KEEP LID ON INFLATION- A PREREQUISITE FOR CARRY-ING OUT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IS ECONOMIC STABILITY

EXPECIALLY OF PRICES, SUHARTO SAID. HE LAUDED INDONE-SIA'S SUCCESS TO DATE IN LOWERING ITS RATE OF INFLATION AND SIAD THE RATE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE HELD TO WORLD LEVELS. THE POLICIES OF REPELITA II WHICH ACHIEVED THIS SUCCESS--ACCUMULATION OF STOCKS OF BASIC NECES-SITIES, A BALANCED BUDGET AND MONETARY AND OTHER ECO-NOMIC POLICIES---WILL BE INTENSIFIED. EQUITABLE AND HEIGHTENED DEVELOPMENT ALSO WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE RATE OF POPULATION INCREASE. SUHARTO EXPRESSED GRAT-ITUDE FOR THE SUCCESS SO FAR ACHIEVED---DURING REPELITA II POPULATIN INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF 2.3 PERCENT, "FAR SMALLER THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM"---BUT SAID FURTHER REDUCTIONS DURING REPELITA III, DOWN TO AN INCREASE OF AROUND 2 PERCENT A YEAR, CAN BE ACHIEVED IF CURRENT EFFORTS ARE CONTINUED AND INTENSIFIED. THIS WOULD MEAN INDONESIA'S POPULATIN WOULD INCREASE FROM 137 MILLION TODAY TO AROUND 151 MILLION BY THE END OF REPELITA III.

9. FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY - THE PRESIDENT REFERRED BRIEFLY, ALMOST PERFUNCTORILY, TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. HE CALLED UPON THE THIRD WORLD TO COMBINE ITS IDEAS, STRENGTHS AND EFFORTS TO SEEK WORLD ECONOMIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JUSTICE N THE FRAMEWORK OF "A" NEW INTERNATIONAL ECO-NOMIC ORDER. POINTING TO THE IMPORTANCE TO THIRD WORLD ECONOMIES OF RAW MATERIALS, HE HAILED THE "AGREEMENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES" TO ESTABLISH A COMMON FUND. HOWEVER. HE TERMED THIS "ACHIEVEMENT" BUT AN INITIAL STEP AND PLEDGED TO USE EVERY FORUM TO TRY TO ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL ECONOIC JUSTICE. HE ALSO PROMISED CON-TINUED UNITY AND SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER OIL EXPORTING COUNTRIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF OPEC. HE SAID THAT BE-CAUSE FLUCTUATIONS IN PRODUCTION AND PRICES INFLUENCE THE COURSE OF INDONESIA'S DEVELOPMENT, IT IS OUR "DUTY TO MAINTAIN STABLE PRICES AND PRODUCTION". BALANCING THE FOREGONG, THE PRESIDENT PLEDGED THAT CONTINUED COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD WITH ADVANCED COUN-TRIES WILL BE UTILIZED TO THE OPTIMUM TO COMPLEMENT INDONESIA'S DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES. END UNCLASSIFED.

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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#### CINCPAC FOR POLAD

10. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: AS EXPECTED THE ECONOMIC PORTIONS OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH WERE HEAVY WITH EMPHASIS ON EQUITY (SEPTEL). WITH THE EXCEPTIONS OF REDUCED INFLATION AND POPULATION GROWTH, TWO SUCCESSES WORTHY OF PRESIDENTIAL PRAISE, SUHARTO DID NOT DEVOTE MUCH ATTENTION TO PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS. HIS FOCUS WAS ON THE FUTURE. THE SPEECH WAS INWARD LOOKING, WITH INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS RECEIVING LITTLE NOTICE. IN PROMISING HIS COUNTRYMENT A GREATER SHARE IN THE NATION'S WEALTH THE PRESIDENT ADDRESSED THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACED BY INDONEISA. PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SPEECH WAS HIS SOBER ASSESSMENT THAT THE OIL BONANZA MAY HAVE BEGUN TO RUN ITS COURSE.

11. THE SPEECH BROKE LITTLE NEW GROUND, MANY OF THE FORMULATIONS CONCERNING ECONOMIC POLICY ARE CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE GATHER TO HAVE BEEN THE ADVICE AND RECOM-MENDATIONS OF BAPPENAS AND THE LARGE GROUP OF EXPATRI-ATE ADVISORS PRESENT IN INDONESIA OVER RECENT MONTHS. THE CALL FOR INCREASED NON-OIL EXPORTS, GREATER DOMESTIC TAX COLLECTION, SELECTIVE CREDIT POLICIES AND RATIONAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMS IS NOT NOVEL. IF WITH PRESIDENTIAL BACKING THESE PROPOSALS CAN NOW BE IMPLEMENTED SUCCESSFULLY, THE SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT WOULD BE ENORMOUS. UNFORTUNATELY, AS IS CUSTOMARY IN NATIONAL DAY SPEECHES. THE PRESIDENT PROVIDED NO CLUE AS TO HOW THEY ARE TO BE IMPLEMENTED. HIS SUGGESTION OF A MORE OPEN BUSINESS CLIMATE AND ONE WHICH WILL CON-TRIBUTE MORE TO DEVELOPMENT GOALS IS WELCOME. BUT THOSE WHO HAD ANTICIPATED NEW POLICIES TO ATTRACT FOREIGN IN-VESTMENT WILL BE DISAPPOINTED. IN CONTRAST TO DOMESTIC INVESTMENT, FOR WHICH MEASURES TO ENSURE GREATER OPPOR-TUNITY WERE PLDGED. FOREIGN INVESTORS ARE APPARENTLY TO BE GIVEN NO NOEW INCENTIVES.

12. IN BRIEF, THE SPEECH CHARTS AN AMBITIOUS COURSE, WHICH EVEN IF ONLY PARTIALLY FULFILLED, WOULD GO FAR TO RIGHT INDONESIA'S ECONOMIC ILLS. A MORE PRECISE OUTLINE OF HOW THE PRESIDENT INTENDS TO CARRY OUT THIS PROGRAM MUST AWAIT THE THIRD DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

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